GATORADE
Volume 1, Issue 1
December 1997

"From the Bridge"

Captain Mark W. Biolo, Commanding Officer, 4th Dental Battalion

Standing Orders are defined as"...semipermanent orders or directives." They are used throughout the Navy to guide watchstanders and others in the performance of their duties. Typically, Standing Orders are procedural in their orientation-what to do when certain events occur, whom to notify when events occur, how to conduct a particular engineering evolution, when to call the CO, and so on.

Over the past few weeks I have issued a series of Standing Orders. Our Standing Orders will focus on philosophy, rather than procedure. These Standing Orders will be more general in their focus and more broad in their application than the usual Standing Orders. Nevertheless, I expect them to be executed as conscientiously as if they were orders pertaining to the testing of the main engines in a warship.

Standing Order #1

1st Priority is the Crew of the 4th Dental Battalion

For those of us in leadership positions this means looking after the health, well being, and professional development of our people. We must make the most of every opportunity to "grow" our juniors, providing education, training, support (both moral and logistical) and experience, or what we in Navy parlance call "time in the chair." That is, we must focus on readiness and training, give our people every opportunity to exercise their skills, and then trust them to do their jobs. In doing so we must also delegate the proper amount of authority to our troops on the line.

At the same time we must be absolutely certain that the environment in which our people train and work is as safe as it can possibly be. Vigilance is the price of safety. We must look and look and look again for factors or conditions which could needlessly endanger this crew and eliminate those conditions and factors insofar as possible. We must also recognize superior performance and promptly correct deficiencies. Performance evaluations must be fair, objective, and timely. Maximum one on one counseling is the rule. All of us must do our very best to take care of each other. We will, as best we can, keep each other out of danger and provide immediate assistance when needed. We will look for ways to help a struggling shipmate and do what it takes to help each other not only succeed, but ***excel.*** This Standing Order is basic to how we do business in the 4th Dental Battalion.

Standing Order #2

Whenever anyone with or for whom we work comes to us with a reasonable request, we will look for any and every possible way to say "YES."

Some years ago I had the opportunity to work with a group of 30 Seabees who were assigned to do the work normally handled by a crew over twice that size. Not only did this group meet every expectation for a crew double it's size, but they exceeded those expectations by a wide margin. Never once was there an excuse, a complaint, a second thought. This group of Sailors met those commitments and then some because they did not know how to operate any other way. It was their culture to find a way to say "Can Do!" We will take a lesson from the Construction Battalion community and foster a culture of service and positive thinking. It will become our nature to find a way to say, "Yes!"

Standing Order #3

The Bottom Line is INTEGRITY

Personal integrity is the very cornerstone of life in the 4th Dental Battalion. The United States Navy assigns great importance to the concept of integrity.

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Command Master Chief

Notes from the Command Master Chief

DTCM Jill Fernandez, Command Master Chief, 4th Dental Battalion

Congratulations to DTCS(FMF) Mark Degraffinreaidt, Leading Senior Chief of 4th Dental Company, Det 3, for receiving the RADM Roger Trift-shauser Award for Excellence at this year's AMSUS meeting in Nashville, TN.

I have been selected as the HM/DT Representative of the Naval Reserve Health Service Flag Council. This 2 year commitment ensures enlisted representation on the Council for both HM's and DT's. Please feel free to contact me with issues. I will be traveling quite a bit this year and look forward to meeting all of you in the future. Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

From the Goat Locker....

The ability to lead effectively is the most important performance characteristic required of a Chief Petty Officer.

Honor-I am accountable for my professional and personal behavior. I will be mindful of the privilege I have to serve my fellow Americans.
Courage- is the value that gives me the moral and mental strength to do what is right, with the confidence and resolution, in the face of adversity.
Commitment-The day to day duty of every man and woman in the DON to work as a team.

The Chief is the most visible leader of the enlisted community, and is, therefore, in a position to set a leadership example for members of the Battalion. The ability to lead effectively is the most important performance characteristic required of a Chief Petty Officer.

The Navy has identified a group of competencies that seek to quantify those traits that define good leadership. Take a minute to read through these. Are you a good leader? The competencies are:

-Setting Goals
-Setting Performance Standards
-Planning and Organizing
-Optimizing Use of Resources
-Delegating Tasks/Responsibility
-Monitoring Results of Programs and Policies
-Rewarding Individual Efforts
-Disciplining
-Maintaining Self Control
-Influencing Others
-Developing Professionals
-Building Teams.
-Keeping a Positive Attitude
-Having Realistic Expectations
-Showing Empathy/Understanding
-Conceptualizing

Reference: Command Master Chief Handbook

C-4 Trng

C-4 is a major part of a Naval Dental Officer's training regimen. Thanks to the S-3 Training shop, applications and seat quotas can be made relatively easy. Seats are limited and given on a first come/first serve basis. Application is made through the regular AT process. POC: DT1(FMF) Tucker @(770) 424-4931 for guidance and details.

C-4 Dates for FY-98:

5 Feb 98	4 Jun 98
5 Mar 98	13 Aug 98
26 Mar 98	17 Sep 98
16 Apr 98	
14 May 98	**Go Navy!**

MFR Surgeon's Conference

The MARFORRES Surgeon's Enrichment Course is scheduled for 14-15 March 1997 at the Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, LA.

This Conference will discuss OPLANS, Program 9 Manpower Management, Command Selection Process, ITP's, MFR QMB accomplishments, and Program 32 participation.

The Dental Battalion will have a Breakout Session on Sunday, March 15th from 0730-1030. All 4th DENBN key personnel (CO's, DET OIC's, LCPO's, LPO's are expected to attend. Refer to COMMARFORRES msg R270721Z OCT 97 or call BN HQ for further guidance.

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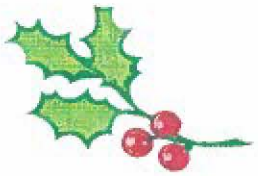


"From the Bridge"

(Cont from Page 1)

Living on or beneath the sea, in the air, or in the field is inherently dangerous business. Lack of attention to detail, even for a relatively short period of time, may result in injury or even death. The stakes in the Navy are high. On every ship there are virtually thousands of deadly opportunities. Even something as seemingly innocuous as a missing door handle may mean that someone may not be able to open the door in time to escape a burning compartment. On ships Sailors are not willing to take risks. A watch is assigned to continuously check the condition of the equipment and the many unoccupied spaces aboard the ship. The Watch is there to check for common sense problems. Smoke or leaking oil is always a problem. There is no problem as long as the Watch stays awake and calls for help if he finds a problem or unfamiliar situation. However, for the system to work, the Watch must be honest. As long as the Watch is checking and reliably reports the problems he finds, everything will stay ship shape. The same principles apply to nearly every other activity. As long as each individual on the team truthfully reports what he sees and does, events will proceed safely. We in the 4th Dental Battalion will live and work with integrity. We will insist on truth, absolute truth, unforgiving honesty. Every time. It is the only way we can be certain that the system is safe and effective, that our team is at the top of it's game. For leaders in this command, insisting on integrity will not only ensure optimum performance, but will also teach self confidence. When we develop self confidence in a junior that individual will later never feel the need to hide the truth.

> **"We must make the most of every opportunity to grow our juniors, providing education, training, support and experience..."**

BATTALION OPERATIONS (S-3) "ARCTIC CARE-98"

CDR Karen Petrella, DC, USNR

November and December have been busy times for the Operations Shop (S-3) and the Inspector-Instructor's supporting exercises. Arctic Care-98 is in Bethel, Alaska (22 March-4 April 98) is currently being spun up by CDR Campen and DT1(SW/FMF) Townsel (I&I Staff). 10 Dental Officers and 20 Dental Technicians made the cut and their Cold Weather Gear, also called "STAP" gear has been sized and ordered. ADALs have been inspected and the site survey complete. CDR Campen has been working feverishly to prepare his crew for this truly exceptional experience. 4th Dental Battalion continues to lead the way on Humanitarian exercises within the Naval Reserve Force. Bravo Zulu to the Arctic Care-98 Team!

TRAINING (S-3)

Two issues that need to be addressed are Credentials and Situation Reports (SITREP's). Every officer is responsible for their Individual Credentialing File (ICF). At press time, 19 of 46 ICF's have discrepancies. In an effort to assist the credentialing process, S-3 has received a list from HSO Jacksonville and will be making contact with *YOU!*

SITREP's from the Detachments are in dire need of some attention. Last month, only 4 of 14 DET's reported. Within 5 days of your IDT, you must submit your SITREP to BN HQ S-3 Operations/Training. This report is required by the Commanding General !!!! Contact DTC(FMF) Jordan or DT1(FMF) Tucker for correct report format and content. (770) 424-5044/4931

4TH DENTAL BATTALION KUDOS!!!

ADMIRAL VAUGHN WINNER!

Congratulations to DT1(FMF) Warren D. Giggetts of Detachment 2, 24th Dental Company, Washington, DC for being selected as the "Outstanding Naval Reserve Dental Technician of 1997". He will be honored at the Annual Admiral William J. H. Vaughn Memorial Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Dallas Mid-Winter Meeting 23-25 January 1998. The RADM Vaughn Awards were established to recognize outstanding performance by the Naval Reserve Dental Community while supporting the Active and Reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps. The awards are presented to a Naval Reserve Dental Unit, Dental Officer, and Dental Technician who best emulate RADM Vaughn's dedication to country and community. Congratulations DT1 Giggetts!!!

Visit our Site!!!
WWW.
MARFORRES.
USMC.MIL

"THE FY-98 BASELOAD"

Baseload- The term used to describe the list of field exercises the Battalion is tasked to support. Also know as the "TEEP."

ARCTIC CARE-98 BETHEL, AK
DATES: 22 MARCH-4APRIL
OIC: CDR CAMPEN
T/O: 10 OFFICER/20 ENLISTED/1 I&I

CAX-7 29 PALMS, CA
DATES: 6-21 JUNE
OIC: CDR GODBOLD
T/O: 4 OFFICER/6 ENLISTED/1 I&I

CAX-8 29 PALMS, CA
DATES: 27 JUNE-12 JULY
OIC: CDR SANTOYO
T/O: 4 OFFICER/6 ENLISTED/1 I&I

FIREX FT. CARSON
DATES: 1-15 AUGUST
OIC: CAPT NANNY
T/O: 6 OFFICER/12 ENLISTED/1 I&I

WALKING SHIELD N. DAKOTA
DATES: 10-27 JULY
OIC: CAPT CREAL
T/O: 2 OFFICER/5 ENLISTED/1I&I

AOT 1 NAB CORONADO
DATES: 16-29 AUGUST
OIC: CDR GLESMANN
T/O: 2 OFFICER/2 ENLISTED

AOT 2 NAB CORONADO
DATES: 16-29 AUGUST
OIC: CDR GLESMANN
T/O: 2OFFICER/2 ENLISTED

LONESTAR LAREDO, TX
DATES: 27 JULY- 7 AUGUST
OIC: CDR DOLL
T/O: 4 OFFICER/8 ENLISTED/1 I&I

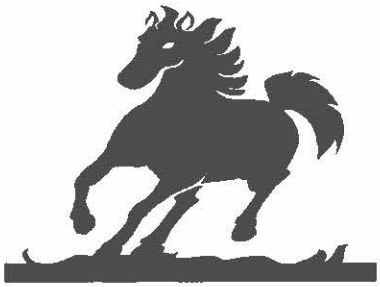
Oops... We got SAU'd off! SAU info later.

Chicago Dental Society Mid-Winter Meeting 19-22 February 1998

Plans for the Chicago Dental Society (CDS) Midwinter Meeting are underway. The CDS will meet at the McCormick Place North once again. The Reserve and AD Navy functions will be headquartered at the DoubleTree Guest Suites. A block of rooms has been reserved and will be held until 19 January. The rates are: $120.00 single, $130.00 dbl. and $155.00 dbl/dbl. Call (312) 664-1100 for reservations. The government rate will not apply. Further questions are to be directed to Mrs. Charlene Greene @(847) 688-2230.

Book of the Quarter

"The Man Who Listens to Horses" by Monte Roberts



Recently you may have seen on television the man who claims to take wild horses, untouched by the human hand and train in 30 minutes to have saddle, bit and rider on the horse ready for work. It's true. Monty Roberts since birth has shared his entire existence with horses.

His life is one filled with trials and tribulations. His "hard handed" disciplinarian father would beat him because he would break from traditional horse breaking to the "new" way he developed with horses which didn't require the abuse to horses that even today takes place. His life was highlighted by training the Queen of England's personal horses.

From living in the railway boxcar to owning Flag is Up Farms, Monty Roberts tells it all. Jack Canfield, Co-author of the Chicken Soup of the Soul series of books writes, "Monty Roberts' book has inspired me to the depths of my soul. Observing Monty's philosophy and method of working with horses and people is one of the most profoundly deep, awe-inspiring, and heart opening experiences I've ever witnessed. I highly recommend this book to everyone." Saddle up for a great read.

LT W. J. Hartmann, MSC, USN

ID CARDS

"From Red to Green"

"On September 4th, 1997, the Secretary of Defense requested that DoD leaders recognize and address barriers to achieve a fully integrated force. One perceived barrier is the color of the Reserve Identification Card. As a step toward the principles of a Total Force and achieveing full integration of the Reserve and Active components, I am directing the color of the Reserve Force ID card be changed from red to green within 180 days of this memo. Only the color of the card is changing. This memorandum does not change current benefits, entitlements, or requirements to update the DEERS System.

KUDOS!!!

Congratulations to the following personnel for their outstanding achievements during 1997!!!

Unit of the Year: Det 2, 14th Dental Company, Brooklyn, NY
Officer of the Year: LCDR Bill Creed, XO 4th DENCO
Sailor of the Year: DT2(FMF) Glen G. Abbott, HQ Det, 24th DENCO
Inspector-Instructor of the Year: DT1(FMF/SW) Raymond Townsel

From the Editor: Needed. You. That's right. I want the men and women of the Battalion to send in articles of interest, pictures of their activities, field exercises, award ceremonies, and just plain fun shots profiling your unit members. You see, this is your newsletter. Send it in. Issues of Gatorade will be published quarterly in March, July, September, and December. Articles can to be sent in by fax, diskette, or mail. Pictures sent in will be returned to the sender free of charge. Well, get off your camera and send em in.

Editor: John Paul Jones

COMPUTER PLANET "Don't Call Us Geeks" By DTC(FMF) Hutzel

I'm not going to write an article divulging any of *myyy* secrets. Those "swoosh" sounds you may be hearing are from people who are a part of the computer age flying past you like a Georgia Yellowjacket. If you are afraid of computers, don't be. Most basic computer knowledge is developed from memorization of repeated keystrokes. Get a computer. Or access to one. The prices are almost unbelievable for even a low-end Pentium. Windows 95 is a must. Grab a friend who knows computers or buy one of the books or magazines you see in almost all stores **and learn.** Now... You most likely will have a lot of fun. Oh, by the way DT1(FMF) Jones is constructing our web page. He has spent many hours developing it. We need your input. We will soon be adding what we hope to be useful information. If you have an e-mail address and want to join the ever growing BN e-mail list, send it to me! We currently have 46 names and growing. The more information we share, the better. There are currently several cheap e-mail programs you can pickup to get at least e-mail on your computer. One is "JUNO". The neat aspect is that it is free and can be picked up almost at any computer store. Installation is easy, performance very reliable.

Send e-mail to: William_A_Hutzel@marforres.usmc.mil
4th Dental BN webpage——>http://www.marforres.usmc.mil

"From the Bridge"

Honesty. This is the very essence of serving on the Navy/Marine Corps Team.

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Standing Order #4

Be Professional, Be Proud

The term *Professional*....is defined as "Conforming to the standards of a profession; having or showing great skill." As members of the "Profession of Arms", we have customs, traditions, and standards of behavior unique to our calling. Integral to our performance as Navy/Marine Corps professionals are such things as military bearing, demeanor, and personal appearance.

Commensurate with professionalism is *pride*, a sense of one's own proper dignity or value. Pride is not just a sense or a feeling. We show our pride and professionalism in the way we look, the way we talk, and the way we act.

We in the 4th Dental Battalion will conduct ourselves at all times with pride and professionalism. Military bearing and military courtesies will be strictly adhered to and personal appearance will be beyond reproach. Seniors will inspect their troops on a regular basis, both formally and informally, and deficiencies will be quickly corrected. Nothing short of excellence will be tolerated in these regards. Pride starts with the small stuff. The holiday season is always a time for both reflection and celebration. As I reflect upon my many blessings, I count chief among

Quips

So you thought...

He who laughs last is slow to think.

PC: He or she who laughs last ...

Gargle and Spit...

Some people drink from the fountain of knowledge, and some people just **gargle.**

Overheard

One doctor thought a Sitrep was a dog command..... Hmmmm...

Sports (Football)

Navy beat Army for the first time in five years. I'm so happy, especially the year the "Army" has had. Open wide. How's that foot taste?

4TH DENTAL COMPANY UPDATE

by CAPT Bird, Commanding Officer, 4th Dental Company

The first quarter FY98 has brought many changes to the "Fighting Fourth". CAPT James Bird relieved CAPT Kerry Krause and CDR (Sel.) Bill Creed assumed the Executive Officer position, and DTCS Mark Degraffinreaidt assumed the role as Company Senior Chief. CDR Bill Fisher has taken the helm of Detachment 4 in San Diego, CA. We also had several personnel move over from Program 32 Long Beach.

The Company completed it's 4 day IDTT at Camp Pendleton, California in October, which included 2 days of clinical support, a forensics dentistry course, and a change of command ceremony. We look forward to a productive and eventful 1998. The 4th Dental Company will support CAX 7&8 this year, in addition to support of Arctic Care 98. We plan to have a 4 day IDTT in April at an undetermined site. I would like to acknowledge the many years of dedicated service performed by DTCS Luallen, who will retire in January. Also congratulations are in order for DTCS Degraffinreaidt, who received the Admiral Trifthauser Outstanding CPO Leadership Award at AMSUS this year.

Biography of the Executive Officer, CDR (Sel.) William Creed

CDR Creed was born in Minot, North Dakota in 1958, and migrated West at the age of 3, where he was raised in a rural Southeastern Oregon town. He attended Oregon State University, majoring in Biology and minoring in Animal Science, where he received a BS in 1982. He then enrolled in the Dentistry Program at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, where, in 1984, received his commission under the Delayed Entry Program (DEP). Upon graduation in 1986, he reported to the 1st Dental Company, Camp Pendleton, where in 1988 he reported to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. He was released from active duty in 1989, and returned to the Pacific Northwest, accepting a position with Permenente Dental Associates in Vancouver, Washington. He affiliated with the NR in March 1990, and was selected as OIC of DET 2, Portland in 1995. He was selected as the 4th Dental Battalion Officer of the Year in 1997, and subsequently selected as the Executive Officer. In his spare time CDR Creed enjoys hunting, fishing, and whitewater rafting.

Biography of DTCS Mark Degraffenreaidt, Company Senior Chief

DTCS Mark Wayne Degraffenreaidt was born and raised in Burlington, NC, where he graduated from high school in 1972. In 1973, he enlisted in the Navy and served from 1973-1977. During this time he attended "A" , FMSS, and "C" schools. He affiliated with the NR upon his release from active duty in 1977, serving at NAS Moffet Field, NMCRRC San Bruno, CA, NAVSTA Treasure Island, and Mare Island Naval Shipyard. He joined the 4th Dental Company in November 1989 as the DET 1 LCPO. During his career he has received 3 NAMS, a Navy Commendation Medal, the ADM Vaughn Award (1989), and the RADM Trifthauser Award. He has worked the past 20 years as an Independent Lab Technician in Palo Alto, CA. Mark and his wife of 24 years, Patricia, have 4 children.

24TH DENTAL COMPANY

Biography of CAPT Steven Creal, Commanding Officer, 24th Dental Company

Captain Creal comes to us from Fort Collins, Colorado. He has been in private practice since leaving active duty in 1978. He has practiced dentistry in California, Nebraska, Wyoming, and now Colorado. Captain Creal has served in the Navy Dental Corps Reserves as a Commanding Officer of 3 different Program 32 units, as REDCOM 18 Staff Dental Officer, and most recently Staff Dental Officer for Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Element II (MACE II).

Captain Creal is a former Marine Naval Flight Officer (NFO) with 285 and a half combat missions in Vietnam. After recovering from his injuries suffered from being shot down in Vietnam, Captain Creal returned to flying status and served as the S-4 Officer for VMFA-235 at MCAS Kanehoe, Hawaii. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1971, Captain Creal subsequently received his DDS from the College of Dentistry of Nebraska in 1976 and then served as Dental Officer for the 13th Dental Company at MCAS El Toro. Captain Creal is grateful to serve in the Navy Dental Corps and thrilled to complete his military career as he started it, with the "Real Corps". The United States Marine Corps. Captain Creal has three beautiful daughters, Elizabeth, Majorie, and Genevieve, who all live with their mother in Fort Worth, TX. Captain Creal is also thankful for his relationship with his wife, Anna. Together, they enjoy their church community, physical fitness activities, vacation, travel, and building an excellent dental practice.

24TH DENTAL COMPANY "DENTAL TECHNICIAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT"

DT3 Mills A. Riley, USNR, HQ DET

DT3 Riley has over 8 years of continuous service in the US Navy. He has served 5 years Active Reserves and 3 years Active Duty. The 3 years active was served onboard the USS Saratoga (CV-60). His reserve time was served with a Fiscal/Supply Unit in Greenville, SC and 24th Dental Company in Marietta, GA. DT3 Riley's dental career extends over the last 6 years, starting with Dental Assisting School at Greenville Technical College. Throughout the last 6 years he has worked at various dental offices and is presently working at a dental office in Southwest Atlanta. In addition to that, he is working part time on his Bachelor's in Biology at Georgia State University. Upon graduation, he plans on attending the Medical College of Georgia's Dental School. DT3 Riley's three goals are: to be a Dentist, a Naval Officer, and to be able to give back to his community. DT3 Riley is quoted as saying, "My cloudy days are behind me, and my future is brighter than ever." "Success for me is inevitable."

14th Dental Company Update

by CAPT Kucharz, Commanding Officer, 14th Dental Company

Now that AMSUS is over it is time to complete plans for the gala social event of the year-the invasion of Giants Stadium in New Jersey by the the 14th Dental Company to promote a Navy victory over the Army. Current and former members of HQ DET, DET 2, and DET 4 will be in attendance. Should be a fun day!

AT planning is already underway but it will be tough to make that news exciting. Civilians would think I was being crude if I were to point out in public that we have a bunch of SAU's on our plate. the 14th, the Company with no exercise, will be doing contributory support in the form of Small Augmentation Units (SAU's) in FY 98 but that is very much in keeping with the directives we were given at AMSUS. The news hit the street after the last issue of Gatorade so it is appropriate to congratulate the former CDR Dave Black who is known as CAPT (Sel.) Dave Black. CAPT (Sel.) Black is currently OIC of DET 3, Forest Park, Illinois.

Looks like HQ DET will be doing some "tanking" in the near future. After offering to do some IDTT time in New England to support Marines in REDCOM 1, we have been approached by a Marine Tank Battalion that has some critical problems in completing T-2 exams so plans are being made to help. More later.

Last but certainly not least, the members of the 14th extend our sincere wishes to our comrades in the Navy Reserves and especially Program Nine for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a successful New Year. Let us all take a moment from our busy holiday schedules to remember our military forces that will spend the holidays away from home guarding the freedom we hold dear.

Autobiography of CDR Bruce Doll, DET OIC, DET 2, Brooklyn, NY

Life was a bowl of cherries during the "wonder years" that I spent growing up in Brooklyn, NY. Despite the daily headlines of crime, there was real adventure waiting around many corners of the Big Apple. During more than one summer, I used to hitch a ride to work as a lifeguard at Riis Park Beach. That daily trip first took me past the Brooklyn Navy Yard, then Fort Hamilton and then past Floyd Bennett Field, and finally past Fort Tilden where tanks rolled over the hills near the shore. That was one big subliminal message I got as I headed off to the best summer job in NYC. Well, it was a few years later that I enrolled in the Navy's Dental Student Program. I wanted to see as much of the world as possible, the "Nav" exceeded my expectations. After finishing a GPR, I got as far as NWC China Lake were I got my legs as a junior officer and learned to fly over the desserts of California. Later, I joined the 1st FSSG at CAMPEN for 2 years. Next stop was aboard a gator freighter for another 2 years before heading off to Bethesda Perio Department. This was a turning point for me as I met several people who influenced me to get involved in dental research at the basic , applied and clinical levels.

While serving at the Naval Academy, I considered that there was no opportunity to do doctoral training in molecular biology and remain on active duty. And so, I left with good memories and entered a doctoral program for "mol bio and biochemistry." Concurrently, I had tours at BUMED, Norfolk, and with DET 2, 14th in Brooklyn-deja vu! I am grateful to the many people that took time to share their experiences with me in these endevours. At the heart of all of this are our 3 wonderful "clones" with whom we look to share the next round of adventure. God Bless and Merry Christmas.

The Last Word

By LT W.J. Hartmann, MSC, USN

For dinner last night I took my 5 year old to dinner. We dined at a restaurant that was filled with pictures of past Presidents, world leaders, famous military photos and famous speeches from past years. My booth had General Douglas MacAuthur's West Point speech hanging above and slightly to the right a picture of President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill together.

After I perused the speech, one I always enjoyed, I remembered a Jay Leno show from months back. During this show he visited a college campus where graduates were receiving their diplomas. This spoof was to see how many famous people some of these students (picked at random) could identify. I was amazed, none of the GRADUATES could identify people like: Franklin or Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Malcolm X, Lyndon Johnson, and William DuBois. He offered many other photos, all with the same result. How could they not identify with some of the most prominent leaders or inventors of our time.

Today, December 7th, as I write this article it becomes so apparently clear that this day and many other important events are losing their significance among the young. Events such as, the surrender of the Japanese during WWII, the discovery of the polio vaccine, landing on the moon, civil rights, Watergate, and today with others so important to our existence are being shelved for other priorities like; police escorts in school, and schools that are overcrowded, schools suffering from budget reductions resulting programs such as physical education, drivers ed, band, and others being discontinued in order too provide for the minimum education possible.

Everyday we read the decline of literacy in this country, in fact this morning on the radio the statistic was 20% of adult Americans are illiterate. We listen how important family values are and how we must return to them if we are to win this war against crime, drugs, and illiteracy. Are all these special programs for slower or advanced students, or less fortunate students really beneficial when compared to the loss of a good physically condition mind and body or being better prepared to drive on the roads or the social friendship developed in Band class or other social classes.

Exactly, what are we doing for our children of tomorrow? Today all we hear is we must make this a better place so our children of tomorrow will not have to suffer because of our negligence. Well, we're failing, every time a child walks into a school and opens fire on students who are praying, is our fault. Every time a child is promoted to the next class who is still unable to read because of the lack of classroom space, is a discipline problem, or has emotional disorder we failed that child. Every child who has to spend most of their waking hours in Day Care, after school care or with a Nanny we've failed. Where is the family value system being taught?

All speeches of today are filled with exceptional rhetoric statements such as "with a vision of tomorrow" or "we must build a bridge into the next century" or how about "Our children of today are our leaders of tomorrow". These speeches are written by professional writers, written to focus on the specific group being addressed and making them sound as if their organization was most special among the leaders of today. They often quote great leaders of yesterday in order to make the speaker more like those past leaders. One problem with that is today's society doesn't know what made them great or who are those leaders of yesterday. I believe an important part of our existence is slowly being removed because it isn't a fit with today's high technology. Why study history when I can click, cut, paste any paper I need to accomplish. And after school why visit a library or museum, when I have a computer. Our technology today has everything at our fingertips, we really don't have to move if we have a Pentium processor. Anything we want to know about our history is at our fingertips, click... click... and we are in the War of 1812

The Last Word

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or reading the Gettysburg address, or learning who invented the cotton gin or reading about the Revolutionary War. Why then, with all this at our disposal, are we so lethargic about our history? One word... Passion.

We are not passionate about learning or teaching. When is the last time you sat and opened a book about our history. Looked at the pictures, learned about that period of time. The old saying, "A picture speaks volumes," really has an important meaning. Why? Because those pictures show the scars of time or show jubilation of a historic event. You become more attached to the time. Do you remember the story you read about the man landing on the moon or the picture? Do you remember the books about President Kennedy's assassination or the picture of the event?

There's an old warning that goes something like, "He who forgets history is condemned to repeat it." Do we really want to relive December 7th, 1941 or would we prefer to show our children pictures and read to them about the trials and tribulations our great country experienced. One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, for Liberty, and Justice, for All. Can you recite the whole pledge? Can your children? If not... We have failed.